

Claims

[c1] A device for inflating collapsed air cell dunnage including a flattened bubble sheet having a bubble layer, a base layer connected thereto and gas expelled from the bubbles in the bubble sheet, the bubble layer further including conduits interconnecting selected groups of bubbles and a common channel extending longitudinally on the sheet and in fluid communication with each of the groups through the conduits, comprising:

a nozzle including an exterior blade with a cutting edge, the nozzle being inserted into the leading edge of the channel in order to introduce gas under pressure into the channel;

a heat sealing device including two rollers constructed to seal the conduits in between the bubbles in the selected groups after the bubbles have been inflated; and

the exterior blade adapted to cut the channel so that the inflated air cell dunnage can be separated from the nozzle for use.

[c2] A method for inflating collapsed air cell dunnage including a flattened bubble sheet having a bubble layer, a base layer connected thereto and gas expelled from the bubbles in the bubble sheet, the bubble layer further including conduits interconnecting selected groups of bubbles and a common channel extending longitudinally on the sheet and in fluid communication with each of the groups through the conduits, comprising:

inserting a nozzle into the leading edge of the channel in order to introduce gas under pressure into the channel;

sealing the conduits in between the bubbles after the bubbles have been inflated; and

cutting the channel so that the inflated air cell dunnage can be separated from the nozzle for use.